



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 May 1967

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LATE ITEM

Yemen

US citizens Liapis and Hartman were freed this morning. As of 5:00 AM EDT they were enroute to Asmara, Eritrea, by plane.

DAILY BRIEF
17 MAY 1967

1. North Vietnam

The flight of the eight Soviet transports to Hanoi via Peking has evidently been held up. We have yet no indication whether the change in schedule is temporary--due to operational factors--or permanent.

2. South Vietnam

The suicide of a Buddhist school teacher on Tuesday--the first day of a week-long celebration leading up to Buddha's birthday--may have been politically motivated. We have had reports that Tri Quang and company intended to seize on the "peace" issue to regain their political momentum. These militants, however, even with an immolation to work with, probably cannot now drum up any serious disturbances.

3. Hong Kong

The Chinese are keeping up their pressure on the British. In Peking, for instance, the Chinese are putting on the same kind of mass demonstrations in front of the British Embassy that they gave the Russians last winter. In Hong Kong itself, the leftists are organizing "struggle groups" to prepare for more demonstrations. There is talk of trying to mobilize the 400,000 unemployed teenagers in the colony for this purpose.

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4. Arab States -
Israel

Embassy Cairo reports it is now quite clear that the troop movements through Cairo on Monday were purely defensive. In essence, Nasir was putting on a show to demonstrate his solidarity with Syria in the event of a new Israeli attack.

No Israelis were hurt in the latest terrorist explosion on the night of 15-16 May near the Israeli-Jordanian border.

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5. Yemen

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6. Nigeria

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7. Cambodia

Sihanouk seems to be broadening his attack against the Cambodian left. The other day at a cabinet session (the Prince frequently has these broadcast live over the radio), he lashed out at "red" propaganda activity and made pointed references to "Red Guard" behavior and the distribution of Mao's works in Cambodia. Sihanouk also repeated his accusations that Vietnamese Communists were behind recent disorders in western Cambodia and that the leftists are being used by certain unnamed "foreigners."

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